



“It Can Wait” Campaign

Friday, June 4, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you, Cindy, and good afternoon everyone.

It is wonderful to see so many gathered here as we join forces to say to Arizona motorists – ESPECIALLY to our TEEN drivers -- that text messaging can wait – it can wait till you are not behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Yes, I am here as Governor of Arizona because we are partnering with AT&T in an effort to educate our teens, and the general public, about the danger of texting while driving.

Arizona Motor Vehicle Division offices will have information available about the dangers of texting while driving and TV monitors in MVD offices will include public service announcements about texting while driving.

But, I am also here as a wife and mother – and one who believes deeply in the importance of education.

It is important to spread the word about the dangers of texting while driving because Arizona holds the health and safety of its young people as a paramount concern.

Now, we all know that the use of text messaging has grown exponentially in recent years -- and any time a driver attempts to send an electronic text message while driving, his or her attention is diverted from the road.

Study after study has proven the dangers of texting while driving, and, especially troubling is the fact that 48 percent of all teens say that they have been a passenger while a driver has sent a text message.

In fact, a new report by the Centers for Disease Control says nearly half of all deaths among teens are accidental – and the majority of those fatalities are from car accidents.

For teens, the deadliest time on the road is the hours after school, along with the summer months, which is why we are here today as you all begin your summer break.

I urge you to take the pledge – pledge never to text while driving.

No text message is worth being distracted and risking your life and those who are driving with you.

Prove to me and your parents that you are caring, in control, and, as a best friend forever, you will not let a friend text and drive.